

Message Text

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FOR CU/AF USIA FOR IAA

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: OEXC,GH

SUB: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF (A) STATE 146003, (B) 145678 (C) 145679

1. EXCHANGE VISAS ISSUED TO PHILLIPS AND ACQUAYE.
 2. THANKS FOR EXPLANATION SMITHSONIAN'S INABILITY INCREASE POCKET MONEY.
 3. EXPERIENCE PAST WEEKPREPARE GROUP FOR DEPARTURE AND LAST MINUTE CONFUSION AT AIRPORT INCLINES US TO QUESTION LIKELIHOOD PHILLIPS TAKING STRONG HAND IN SHEPHERDING GROUP OR LOOKING OUT FOR DETAIL. SUSPECT THIS CHORE WILL FALL PRIMARILY TO ACQUAYE WHO WHILE PARTIAL TO WULOMEI CAN BE RELIED UPON TO LOOK AFTER NITTY GRITTY. ACQUAYE KNOWS US WELL AND HAS STAGED PERFORMANCES THERE BEFORE. OF TWO PERSONS ACQUAYE MORE VALUABLE IN ACCOMPANYING GROUP THROUGHOUT TOUR. PHILLIPS SEES HIMSELF MORE IN ROLE OFFICIAL GOG REPRESENTATIVE. HE HAS MADE THAT VERY CLEAR AND NOT OVERLY EAGER ACCEPT OUR DESCRIPTION HIS DUTIES. IF PERMITTED TO STAY AWAY FROM ACCRA ARTS COUNCIL JOB FOR ENTIRE LENGTH OF TOUR SUSPECT IT WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM GROUP'S EFFICIENCY TO PICK PHILLIPS UP FOR PARTIAL BEGINNING JUL 24 OR EARLIER IF SLOT BECOMES AVAILABLE. PROGRAMMING FOR ACQUAYE, UNLESS HIS TICKET CAN BE EXTENDED MIGHT HAVE TO
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CONSIST OF EXTRA APPOINTMENTS IN MAJOR CITIES ENROUTE. TO LEAVE

DEPARTMENT AS MUCH LATITUDE AS POSSIBLE WE EXPLAINED TO PHILLIPS AND ACQUAYE ON HANDING FORM DSP-66 AT THE AIRPORT THAT GRANT WOULD BE EXTENDED ONLY IF SPECIAL PROGRAM COULD BE WORKED OUT AND IF THEY COULD BE SPARED FROM THEIR DUTIES. BOTH APPRECIATED OUR EFFORTS IN THEIR REGARD. POST HAD TENTATIVELY PLANNED SEND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ARTS COUNCIL (PHILLIPS) OUT OF FY-1976 FUNDS.

4. DESPITE REPEATED PLEAS SPEED UP ISSUANCE GOG PASSPORT THIS FINALLY ACCOMPLISHED AFTER COB FRIDAY AND ONLY AFTER DIRECT PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MFA. FYI: PRESENCE HERE SMITHSONIAN'S EDDIE AYENSU LATE MAY WAS HELPFUL GETTING PROJECT OFF THE DIME. AGAIN THIS INTERCESSION JUNE 20 ALSO SIGNIFICANT IN BREAKING UP LOG JAM ON PASSPORTS. AYENSU RETURNING WASHINGTON JUNE 23. HE FULLY BRIEFED ON PROBLEMS AND PERSONALITIES. AYENSU PREPARED HAVE FRANK TALK WITH PHILLIPS ON LATTER'S DUTIES IF THIS DESIRED. AYENSU DISTRESSED LAST MINUTE GOG SWITCH ON PER DIEM. SAYS HE WILL URGE AMBASSADOR QUARM TO REVERSE THAT DECISION OR AT LEAST HAVE BALANCE OF GOG PER DIEM NOT NEEDED TO COVER QUOTE EMERGENCY CONTINGENCIES UNQUOTE TO BE PAID OUT AT END OF TOUR TO HELP COMPENSATE FOR SALARY LOSS DURING TOUR.
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